

January 17, 2004

Dear UC Ag/BAREC Friends:

For those of you who I have not met, my name is Kathryn Mathewson. I have been quietly working with many individuals and organizations to keep BAREC as an agricultural/horticultural open space. This property is one of the state's most important historical pieces of agricultural land and the state wants to turn it into a housing development. The focus of our efforts is to preserve BAREC's history and prevent housing on the property.

The following are highlights of the current events surrounding BAREC. Much more information is available on our website. Here is a brief summary of the information in this note:

1. BAREC on the National Historical Registry;
2. Our new website: <http://www.savebarec.org>;
3. The BAREC EIR schedule;
4. Ways you can help; Contact us at info@savebarec.org;
5. The five ways to keep BAREC in open space;
6. Some great BAREC quotes by well-known people such as key state and city employees, the Director of the Valley's largest environmental organization, Senator John Vasconcellos, etc. (a unique perspective).

Sincerely,

Kathryn Mathewson
VIVA and SAVEBAREC
408-293-1475
info@savebarec.org

BAREC on the National Historical Registry

We are currently applying for BAREC to be on the National Historical Registry. Our professional historian consultant feels that it is the most important historical agricultural land on California's central coast and it has much unique history for the entire state. With this document in place, we will be able to preserve at least the most important historical BAREC land.

Our new website

Visit our website, <http://www.savebarec.org> to get the latest up to date information.

The BAREC EIR schedule

The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is currently being written. The State and their consultant, EDAW, are preparing this document. It is due to be completed in early February 2004. Upon completion, there will be 45 days to

review it. If you would like to see the preliminary EIR document, contact us at info@savebarec.org or write to:

Kevin Riley
Santa Clara Planning Department
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

We plan to have several copies in the neighborhood around BAREC and others will be at the City Library. It is possible that we may be able to get it on the Internet. After the 45-day period, the State and its consultants will revise the EIR and prepare the final EIR. Then there will be hearings on the final EIR before the Planning Commission and the City Council. According to the City staff, the EIR does not need to be certified and the City Council can approve the housing project even if the EIR is not accurate. This is when we may need to officially engage a lawyer and retain legal council. The current status of the City Council members on the zoning change is listed below. It is up to the citizens of Santa Clara to influence their elected officials to vote favorably to retain agricultural zoning. We have a separate document with the City Council members' home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses so Santa Clara residents can reach them easily. We need four votes; we have two. Therefore, the most important City Council Members to call, meet personally, and influence to vote for BAREC as open space are Mayor Patricia Mahan and Council Member Aldyth Parle.

Ways you can help

To this end we have prepared fliers and a postcard addressed to the Santa Clara City Council members. We are taking these fliers and postcards door to door and circulating them in the city of Santa Clara to educate the Santa Clara citizens about the issues. If the City Council votes to change the BAREC zoning from agriculture to housing, we will then proceed with a referendum vote.

We are coming down to the last few months before the final decisions about BAREC will be made. Therefore, we need all the help we can get. Following are just a few ways you can help:

1. We need individuals to canvass a Santa Clara street, educate the Santa Clara citizens, and pass out the fliers/postcards. We find that many of the citizens of Santa Clara are simply not aware of BAREC's history and importance to their community.
2. We need money for legal support. There are three main focuses for these funds:
 - a. To review the EIR and make suggestions about what we should do to ensure its accuracy.

- b. To coordinate with our historian to make sure that BAREC's history is saved
 - c. To help us review and prepare the paperwork to insure the referendum paperwork is in the proper format and filed correctly
3. We would like to get the BAREC story out to the television and radio medium. Any ideas to help make this happen are welcome. The local media has not been properly informed to date.
4. If you know Santa Clara citizens or people who work in Santa Clara, please either educate them about BAREC or let us know about them so we can get them the information.
5. We have a list of Supporters on our website, <http://www.savebarec.org>. If you have any other supporter to add to the list, please let us know.
6. If you know how to reach Governor Schwarzenegger to tell him or his staff about BAREC, please let us know this too. If you read Senator John Vasconcellos' quotes about the "abominable process and surreptitious manner" in which BAREC was sold, you will see that Governor Davis was a major person behind the BAREC sale. Also, you might be interested to know that after Governor Davis lost last fall's election, he spent \$300 million of our tax money on two parcels of "environmentally important land" in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The owners of these parcels of land were contributors to his campaign. BAREC is currently valued at \$30-\$35 million. Why was BAREC not considered worthy of the state's funds?
7. Educate yourself about BAREC by reading our website, <http://www.savebarec.org>. You will learn a great deal about the history of California and its current political and environmental climate. Please share BAREC information with your friends via email or with some of the documentation on our website.

Ways to Stop Housing on BAREC

1. VIVA and SAVEBAREC (<http://www.savebarec.org>) have retained a professional historian to do a historical report that is necessary to place BAREC on the National, State, and City Registries. Such a status will not allow housing to take place on the most historical parts of the property.
2. If the City Council votes to keep BAREC's zoning as agriculture, housing cannot be placed on the land.
3. If the City Council votes to change BAREC's zoning from agriculture to housing, VIVA, SAVEBAREC, and other environmental/community organizations will gather the necessary signatures on a petition for a Referendum Vote to keep the land agriculturally zoned. If the citizens of Santa Clara vote to retain BAREC's agriculture zoning, no housing can take place on the property.

4. Get Governor Schwarzenegger to get involved in the process. According to Senator John Vasconcellos, he feels this has been undemocratic and “an abominable process.”
5. File a lawsuit against the State since, according to legal council, the State has not followed the legal steps to sell the land.

Useful BAREC Quotes

“It’s a marvelous facility that is supporting research on turf grass, landscape plants, cut flowers, high value horticultural crops, composting, bio-intensive pest management, alternatives to methyl bromide and other high visibility topics. It’s also a very unique property for studying ag-urban interface issues. These interface issues will only grow in importance in the coming years.”

Steven Nation, Assistant to the University of California President of Agriculture and Natural Resources (before the Center was closed).

“BAREC is so important to the City and region that it should be placed on the National Historical Registry.”

Lori Garcia, Santa Clara City Historian and Commissioner on the Santa Clara County Historical Commission and Chairman of the Santa Clara Planning Commission.

“If this parcel of land has the agricultural zoning removed, it would not only be a tragic loss to the community’s heritage and its future, but also close the door to any opportunities we may have in the future to pursue our research and education work in the Santa Clara Valley.”

Dr. Carol Shennan, Director of the University of California Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.

“The City [Santa Clara] loses money with housing as it is costly to maintain it.”

Geoffrey Goodfellow, Director of Planning, Santa Clara, stated in a January 2003 BAREC community meeting in front of 300+ people.

"The State has never challenged a city on a zoning issue."

Jeff Crone, Senior Real Estate Officer, California State Dept. of General Services. Note: that Dan Potash is the State’s consultant in charge of selling BAREC and his boss is Jeff Crone.

“Land is a non-renewable resource. It would seem shortsighted to make a dollar at the expense of what has been a resource for the greater community.”

Vicki Moore, Greenbelt Alliance

”This property is unique in California. It is considered the State's leader in the rural/urban interface issues. We are fortunate to have it in the middle of our metropolitan community with excellent public transportation to it. As we become more urban, we will need it even more. It is also important that you recognize the

importance of its history to our community and to the State and encourage City, State, and National Historical Registry status for it.

Because of its history and location, the potential to bring federal, state, and private foundation money to your City is tremendous. The permanent jobs this would create and the good it could bring would far outweigh a housing development that will only make it look like the rest of our paved over Valley and become a drain on the City's economy. The work done on the property could send out new little business ideas all over your City and enrich it for years to come. Santa Clara has been far-sighted in its solar energy policies. I urge you to continue your environmental leadership and vote to keep this historically important piece of land agriculturally zoned."

Ted Smith, Director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition in a letter to the Santa Clara City Council.

"The average acre of farmland in San Francisco earns \$123,000 per year."

Michael Olson in Metro Farm, a Guide to Growing a Big Profit on a Small Parcel of Land (<http://www.metrofarm.com>).

"I am writing you to encourage you to follow up on the Council's vote on March 18, 2003:

'Direct staff to explore opportunities to obtain funding to assist in purchasing portions of the BAREC property The Committee directed Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff to work with the City and County of Santa Clara to explore funding opportunities including, but not limited to, submission of a joint application for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the State of California to assist in purchasing portions of the BAREC property, located in the City of Santa Clara, to allow for continued agricultural/open space uses.'

The State has too quickly tried to sell this land to make it appear that your efforts were in vain. Since I have not seen a follow up on your vote and since the City of Santa Clara does not seem to know about your interests in helping them, I request that you continue this good work."

Ted Smith, Director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition in a Letter to the San Jose City Council.

"What was most missing in this process so far was fair and adequate public notice of this proposed action, the deactivation of this BAREC research operation, without discussion or resolution of or planning with respect to the two critical questions: (1) Where and how else will the critical research BAREC now conducts be conducted, assured? (2) How else will this land be utilized? Since our local municipalities have under law the full authority to authorize or refuse any proposed change of zoning and use, we ask the State of California to begin discussions with the City of Santa Clara regarding appropriate proposed alternative use/s for that property."

Senator John Vasconcellos and Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist in a letter to Governor Davis and the UC President (January 3, 2000) regarding BAREC

"This decision was made singularly between your administration and the University of California, and slipped into the budget without any advance notification to either the public or us at large. This is truly an abominable process. We hope that you, your administration and the UC, will pledge never again to undertake such a surreptitious action. Given the surreptitious manner in which this deal was made between the UC and the Davis administration (i.e. the huge budget document, at the last minute, with no notice to anybody - local residents, us, the local legislators that represent that area) this whole deal should be called off, and the process legitimately renewed with full public notice and involvement."

This was the last letter about this very undemocratic process. The governor never responded. This process has been continuing to erode community confidence in the political process as the State's consultants; the City staff and the City's elected officials have gotten more into the picture."

Senator John Vasconcellos and Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist in a follow-up letter to Governor Davis on March 9, 2000, since the letter dated January 3, 2000 went unanswered.

"I am very sorry to say it but many people believe Jamie Matthews is much to close to some developers."

A Santa Clara City Councilperson, April 23, 2003

"Tom Shanks of the Markula Center at the University helped the City along the 'ethical' process to our awards. This is no longer the same 'ethical' City Council as we had as recently as last year. The shadow of 'money influence' reaches out far and further than before."

The same Santa Clara City Councilperson, August 4, 2003